

I am a Northwest Airlines Flight Purser. It is essential that passengers not be allowed to use cellphones inflight. We need passenger attention for safety demonstrations at the beginning of flights, which is often when passengers want to make a quick call. There are many other circumstances during the flight when we need to have full attention and co-operation of passengers and it is bad enough with the onboard (ie. seat back) phones that distract them - cellphones would increase the problem. Onboard phones have also resulted in many complaints from passengers who want a peaceful environment and they expect flight attendants to be able to achieve this - we can't make people hang up their phones. That's then one more confrontation/issue we have to deal with that can escalate. When it comes to emergency situations, again, we need their attention but we also don't want them all trying to phone CNN to give a blow by blow or missing important information that might save their lives. I think the potential for criminals or terrorists to be assisted by being able to communicate with people not aboard the airplane is the most obvious negative to this proposal. Don't do it!

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